



Thomas K. Knoll

March 5, 1940 - January 15, 2024

Thomas Karl Knoll, age 83, of Clare, MI passed away on January 15, 2024. Born March 5, 1940 in Flint, MI Tom was the first of three children to Fred and Irma Knoll. Tom was raised on a farm in Mt. Morris Mi. In 1970, Tom relocated his family to Harrison MI. Then in 1978 he ventured to Clare, MI where he found the community he was meant to be in. There he lived the second portion of this life among the Amish where we developed many friendships. Tom learned at a very young age his love for horses and other livestock. He began riding his first pony at age five and continued to ride until he was 70. Tom lived his entire life surrounded by farm animals.

Tom was quite the football athlete at Mt. Morris high school. He truly enjoyed reminiscing of his glory days. He was a 4-H volunteer for over ten years while his children participated. His love for livestock landed his job at Clare Stockyards in 1970. He worked every Monday for the next 50 years; Monday was his favorite day of the week. Tom enjoyed horseback riding in northern Michigan; the elk were one of his many favorite sites to see. He showed cattle, would compete in “team penning” events and enjoyed riding horses on his own farm. Later in life, Tom began hauling livestock for this local community. His truck and trailer became a part of him and is what kept him going each and every day. He felt people could depend on him and it gave him a purpose. His final trucking job was January 1, 2024.

Tom is survived by his three children, Kelly Fanslau, Michelle Coleman (Louis Kurant), Christopher Knoll, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. He is also

survived by his siblings, Judy Hicks and Michael Knoll.

Dad, you will be missed.

Please join Tom's Celebration of Life on January 27, 2024 from 11:00a-1:00p at Yoder's Farm, 10885 N. Leaton Rd, Clare, MI 48617. We will share stories, friendships, and lunch. Arrangements were handled by the Clare Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. On-line condolences may be left at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN 27. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Yoder Farm
10885 N. Leaton Road
Clare, MI 48617

Tribute Wall

LD

“ Love, Di purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Thomas K. Knoll.



Love, Di - January 25, 2024 at 01:42 PM

BB

“ My love of horses and earliest memory of being on horseback is when Tom first put me up on Princess and then later on Cookie. I loved my visits to the farm in the summers. Uncle Fred told the best stories. Tom & Mike could also tell them with the best of them. Everyone worked hard and laughed a lot helping uncle Fred farming and milking his dairy cows, bailing hay and the works. I loved the barn and the hay rides. I loved playing in the hay loft and with the barn kittens; drying dishes for Aunt Irma and riding in my cousins funny car. Tom was about ten years older than me, didn't see him too often but he always had something humorous to say or kid me about in passing. I'm so happy he found a place where he fit in, was appreciated, and loved. I'm sad he's gone. Miss him just thinking of him...and hope to see him on a grand steed in Heaven.

Bethany Ballard - January 24, 2024 at 10:19 AM

SA

“ Tom hauled our calves that he always found for Dan and after Dan's passing Tom would look for calm calves as he knew I was now raising them. I will miss seeing his truck and trailer going by several times a day. RIP Tom

Sheryl Ackermann - January 18, 2024 at 08:55 AM

RS

“ So sorry for your loss. He was a good friend to John and I remember all the years of him being at the sales. I will miss seeing his truck and trailer go by.

Robyn Schunk

Robyn Schunk - January 17, 2024 at 09:44 PM

CM

“ So sorry for the families loss. Tom was an icon to all of us in the farming community. He probably hauled livestock for everyone at one time or another! We will miss seeing that white truck with trailer. RIP Tom

Chuck & Bev Magnus - January 17, 2024 at 08:51 PM

JC

“ I remember Tom living down the road from my Grandparents for years and also livestock hauling with my other Grandpa. He will be missed. He was definitely a respected member of the community!

Jeania M. Canel - January 17, 2024 at 07:58 PM

GB

“ Tom milked cows for us during the time he decided to not own a motorized vehicle and live in his house in the corner of his barn. Rain, shine, snow.....he rode a bicycle three and a half miles up here. One day he got riding down the hill too fast, made it into the driveway, but ran right into the bush at the corner of the house. We got a lot of mileage out of that one! He was always dependable and sure knew how to get the milk out of those cows.

Gil and Doris Badger - January 17, 2024 at 07:14 PM

KR

“ I will miss Tom dearly on Mondays at the sale barn. He was one of my favorite truckers for sure. I don't think he ever turned down a load even if it ment multiple trips. I remember just a few weeks ago when he came in to drop off he had the peoples dog he was hauling. I said Tom we don't sell dogs. He said I don't know how it got in I didn't load them! Of course he returned the dog. The laughs we shared.

Growing up I always remember seeing him riding his horse by the house. I always thought he was so cool like a legend. Little did I know he is a legend I will always remember!

Kerry Romatz - January 17, 2024 at 06:44 PM

JC

Same memories Kerry! He lived a full life!

Jeania M. Canel - January 17, 2024 at 08:00 PM

JC

“ Tom was my older brother's buddy, living at the farm next to ours. The two farms shared equipment, us using their BN to mow hay. Tom and Dave were always off on adventures, Bill Reno too. Little brother could not go but I admired their sense of adventure. I learned tolerance for all the teasing.

Kids today will never experience the life we had on the farm and what we learned from it.

We grew up and lived in the best time in world history; the work ethic, freedom, opportunities, and family will never be the same for a long time.

Thank You Tom for being such a Great Man. JC x 2

John Coleman - January 17, 2024 at 03:24 PM

SW

“ Many of my trail-riding memories have Tom in them. He could follow a deer trail through the woods leading a bunch of riders. Or he could get lost on the main road, and after hours of trying to find camp, would say "I'm sure it's just around that next curve". I will miss you, Cowboy.

Sandy Westphal - January 17, 2024 at 09:33 AM



“ Tom was very well known in the rural community of Clare. He will be deeply missed. He loved hauling livestock anytime of day and seven days a week. We wish the family comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Dave and Tammy Miller

t - January 16, 2024 at 11:49 PM